

## STEADIER HOG MARKETS PLANNED

Hog Producers and Packers Confer With Representatives of the Food Administration and Agricultural Department and Adopt New Plan of Regulation.

In accordance with the policy of the Food Administration since its foundation to consult representative men in the agricultural industry on occasions of importance to special branches of the industry, on October 24 there was convened in Washington a meeting of the Live Stock Subcommittee of the Agricultural Advisory Board and the special members representing the swine industry to consider the situation in the hog market.

The conference lasted for three days, and during this time met with the executive committee of the fifty packing firms participating in foreign orders for pork products and with the members of the Food Administration directing foreign pork purchases.

The conclusions of the conference were as follows:

The entire marketing situation has so changed since the September joint conference as to necessitate an entire alteration in the plans of price stabilization. The current peace task has alarmed the holders of corn, and there has been a price decline of from 25 cents to 40 cents per bushel. The fact that the accumulations of low priced corn in the Argentine and South Africa would, upon the advent of peace and liberated shipping, become available to the European market has created a great deal of apprehension on the part of corn hogs. This decline has spread fear among swine growers that a similar reduction in the prices of hogs would naturally follow. Moreover, the lower range of corn prices would, if incorporated in a 12-to-1 ratio, obviously result in a continuously falling price for live hogs. In view of these changed conditions many swine producers anticipated lower prices and as a result rushed their hogs to market in large numbers, and this overshipment has added to and aggravated the decline.

The information of the Department of Agriculture indicates that the supply of hogs has increased about 8 per cent, while the highest unofficial estimate does not exceed 15 per cent, increased production over last year. On the other hand, the arrival of hogs during the last three weeks in the seven great markets has been 27 per cent more than last year, during the corresponding period, demonstrating the unusually heavy marketing of the available supply. In the face of the excessive receipts some packers have not maintained the price agreed last month. On the other hand, many of the packers have paid over the price offered to them in an endeavor to maintain the agreed price. The result in any event has been a failure to maintain the October price basis determined upon at the September conference and undertaken by the packers. Another factor contributing to the break in prices during the month has been the influenza epidemic; it has sharply curtailed consumption of pork products and temporarily decreased the labor staff of the packers about 25 per cent.

The exports of 130,000,000 pounds of pork products for October compared with about 52,000,000 pounds in October a year ago, and the export orders placeable by the Food Administration for November, amount to 170,000,000 pounds as contrasted with the lesser exports of 98,000,000 for November, 1917. The increased demands of the allies are continuing, and are in themselves proof of the necessity for the large production for which the Food Administration asked. The increase in export demands appears to be ample sufficient to take up the increase in hog production, but unfavorable market conditions existing in October afford no fair index of the aggregate supply and demand.

It must be evident that the enormous shortage in fats in the Central Empires and neutral countries would immediately upon peace result in additional demands for pork products which, on top of the heavy shipments to the Allies, would tend materially to increase the American exports. Inasmuch as no considerable reservoir of supplies exists outside of the United States, it seems probable that the present prospective supplies would be inadequate to meet this world demand with the return to peace. So far as it is possible to interpret this fact, it appears that there should be even a stronger demand for pork products after the war, and therefore any alarm of hog producers as to the effect of peace is unwarranted by the outlook.

In the light of these circumstances it is the conclusion of the conference that attempts to hold the price of hogs to the price of corn may work out to the disadvantage of pork producers. It is the conclusion that any interpretation of the formula should be a broad gauged policy applied over a

this new plan, based as it is upon a positive minimum basis, will bring better results to the producer than average prices for the month. It does not limit top prices and should narrow the margins necessary to country buyers in more variable markets. It is believed that the plan should work out close to \$18 average.

Swine-producers of the country will contribute to their own interest by not flooding the market, for it must be evident that if an excessive over percentage of hogs is marketed in any one month price stabilization and control cannot succeed, and it is certain that producers themselves can contribute materially to the efforts of the conferences if they will do their marketing in as normal a way as possible.

The whole situation as existing at present demands a frank and explicit assurance from the conferences represented—namely, that every possible effort will be made to maintain a live hog price commensurate with swine-production costs and reasonable selling values in execution of the declared policy of the Food Administration to use every agency in its control to secure justice to the farmer.

The stabilization methods adopted for November represent the best efforts of the conference, concurred in by the Food Administration and the Livestock Subcommittee of the Agricultural Advisory Board, together with special swine members and the representatives of the packers, to improve the present unsatisfactory situation, which has unfortunately resulted because of the injection of uncontrollable factors.

We ask the producer to co-operate with us in a most difficult task.

The members of the Conference were:

Producers—H. C. Stuart, Elk Garden, Va., Chairman Agricultural Advisory Board; W. M. McFadden, Chicago, Ill.; A. Sykes, Ida Grove, Id.; John M. Eppard, Ames, Ia.; J. H. Mercer, Live Stock Commission for Kansas; J. G. Brown, Monroe, Ind.; E. C. Brown, President Chicago Livestock Exchange; N. H. Gentry, Sedalia, Mo.; John Granier, Brookfield, Conn.; Eugene Funk, Bloomington, Ill.; Isaac Lincoln, Aberdeen, S. D.; C. W. Hunt, Logan, Ia.; C. B. Yancey, W. H. Dodson.

Food Administration—Herbert Hoover, F. L. Snyder, Major E. L. Roy, O. H. Powell.

Department of Agriculture—Louis D. Hall, L. R. Marshall.

The packers present and others sharing in foreign orders were represented by the elected packers' committee. Those represented were:

Packers—Armour & Co., Chicago, Ill.; Cudahy Packing Co., Chicago, Ill.; Morris & Co., Chicago, Ill.; Swift & Co., Chicago, Ill.; Wilson & Co., Chicago, Ill.; John Ager Co., Chicago, Ill.; Armstrong Packing Co., Dallas, Tex.; Boyd Dunham & Co., Chicago, Ill.; Brennan Packing Co., Chicago, Ill.; Cincinnati Abattoir Co., Cincinnati, O.; Cleveland Provisions Co., Cleveland, O.; Cudahy Bros. Co., Cudahy, Wis.; Dodge Packing Co., Buffalo, N. Y.; Dunlevy Packing Co., Pittsburgh, Pa.; J. E. Decker & Sons, Mason City, Ia.; Evansville Packing Co., Evansville, Ind.; East Side Packing Co., East St. Louis, Ill.; Hammond Standard & Co., Detroit, Mich.; G. A. Hormel & Co., Austin, Minn.; Hormel Packing & Co., Terre Haute, Ind.; Independent Packing Co., Chicago, Ill.; Indianapolis Abattoir Co., Indianapolis, Ind.; International Provision Co., Brooklyn, N. Y.; Interstate Packing Co., Winona, Minn.; Iowa Packing Co., Des Moines, Ia.; Powers Begg Co., Jacksonville, Ill.; Kringan & Co., Indianapolis, Ind.; Krey Packing Co., St. Louis, Mo.; Lake Erie Provision Co., Cleveland, O.; Layman Co., Milwaukee, Wis.; Oscar Mayer & Bro., Sedgwick and Beethoven streets, Chicago, Ill.; J. T. McMillan Co.; St. Paul, Minn.; Miller & Hart, Chicago, Ill.; J. Morrell & Co., Oconomowoc, Wis.; Nickels Packing Co., Pueblo, Colo.; Ogden Packing and Provision Co., Ogden, Utah; Ohio Provision Co., Cleveland, O.; Parker Webb & Co., Detroit, Mich.; Pittsburgh Packing and Provision Co., Pittsburgh, Pa.; Rath Packing Co., Waterloo, Ia.; Roberts & Sons, Chicago, Ill.; Rehe & Bros., New York City; W. C. Routh & Co., Logansport, Ind.; St. Louis Ind. Packing Co., St. Louis, Mo.; Sinclair & Co., T. M. Cedar Rapids, Ia.; Sullivan & Co., Detroit, Mich.; Thonner-Norton Provision Co., Cleveland, O.; Wilson Provision Co., Peoria, Ill.; Western Packing and Provision Co., Chicago, Ill.; Charles Wolf Packing Co., Topeka, Kan.

### A. J. Rolland's Mother Ill

A. J. Rolland received a message Tuesday night, bearing the sad news that his mother was dangerously ill at the home in Fenton, Michigan. Mr. Rolland left on Wednesday's No. 4. His many friends hope he will find his mother improving upon his arrival.

Mrs. H. S. Campbell went to State College Wednesday to be with her son Carlton Thanksgiving.

It is believed by the conference that

### LEAGUE OF NATIONS FOR PEACE

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of common interest, the protection and care of backward regions and internationalized places, and such matters as have been jointly administered before and during the war.

"A. A representative congress to formulate and codify rules of international law; to inspect the work of the administrative bodies and to consider any matter affecting the tranquility of the world

or the progress or betterment of human relations.

"B. An executive body, able to speak with authority in the name of the nations represented and to act in case the peace of the world is endangered.

"Such a league must be formed at the time of the definitive peace, or the opportunity may be lost forever."

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# Ford

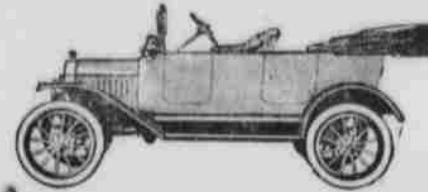
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WESTERN GARAGE



## FAIR FOOD PRICES

Merchants' Weekly Report to U. S. Food Administration  
Of Purchase and Selling Prices of Commodities for Week ending November 30, 1918

COMMODITY	Retail Price		Customer Price	
	Low Price	High Price	Low Price	High Price
Wheat Flour, per cwt.	\$5.60	\$5.70	\$6.20	\$6.30
Wheat Flour, 24 lbs.	1.40	1.40	1.60	1.60
Bread, 16 oz.	.39	.40	.40	.40
Bread, 24 oz.	.55	.55	.55	.55
Cornmeal, bulk, per cwt.	6.90	6.10	6.60	7.00
Oatmeal or Rolled Oats, pkg. 20 oz., per lb.	12	13	17	17
Rice, unbroken, standard quality, per lb.	90	—	15	—
Hominy or Hominy Grits, 1 lb. pkg.	15	14	16	17
Sugar, granulated, bulk, per lb.	10	—	12	—
Beans, white, navy or pea (one lb.), per lb.	15	16	16	—
Beans, colored, pinto or any other colored, per lb.	.07	.09	.09	.10
Potatoes, white or Irish, per lb.	.92	.93	.94	.94
Onions, per lb.	.03	.04	.06	—
Raisins, seeded, 12 oz. pkg.	10	11	15	15
Prunes, medium size, per lb.	12	14	16	20
Canned Tomatoes, standard grade, 20 oz. can	14	15	20	20
Canned Corn, standard grade, 20 oz. can	14	17	20	20
Canned Peas, standard grade, 20 oz. can	16	17	20	20
Canned Salmon, Red, 16 oz. can	18	20	25	25
Canned Salmon, Pink, 8 oz. can	18	19	25	25
Evaporated Milk, 16 oz. cans	70	70	90	115
Butter, creamy, per lb.	62	—	70	—
Clam Margarine, per lb.	35	—	40	—
Eggs (fresh, stored), doz.	50	55	60	—
Cheese, American, per lb.	40	—	47	48
Lard, pure leaf, No. 10 pails	2.90	3.00	3.25	3.40
Lard, compound, No. 10 pails	2.30	2.40	2.75	2.90
Bacon, breakfast, sliced, ham, per lb.	46	52	58	60
Pork Chops, per lb.	33	36	38	43
Ham, smoked, sliced, per lb.	34	36	50	—
Plate Ribs, per lb.	—	—	20	—
Shoulder Steak, per lb.	—	—	27	—
Round Steak, per lb.	—	—	35	—
Fish, fresh, all kinds, per lb.	16	18	25	30